

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION BOARD
March 13, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Board members present were Chairwoman Sue Thompson, Dennis Elliott, Greg Churach Ralph Freed and Jill Ludy. Also present were Herbert C. Miller, Jr., Commissioner, Elwood Taylor, Commissioner, Dave Nester, Pottsgrove School District, Todd Hilsee, Mitch Mitchell, Eileen Forsyth, David Daniels, Jim Magyer, Dave Vaughn, Ian Burley, Olive Hernandez, Matthew Snader, Yvette Porter, Sydney Hernandez and Jack Layne, Township Manager.

1. Call to Order

Chairwoman Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. Presentation

Chairwoman Thompson introduced representatives of the Pottsgrove Organization for Wilderness and Environmental Restoration (POWER): Ms. Forsyth along with four student representatives of POWER provided a brief overview of this program. They emphasized that POWER is an environmental club that can be utilized by Pottsgrove School District's elementary, middle and high school students. They stated that the environmental activities that they are involved would readily supplement the existing school curricula that are provided, especially the science curriculum. It was noted that there were numerous grant award opportunities that POWER could pursue for procuring funding for the Hilsee property. One of the students stated that a portion of the Hilsee property could be converted into a community garden and that the old pool located on this site, could be utilized by the local wildlife. A low-ropes course was suggested as a potential fixture on this site. Mr. Miller inquired as to whether POWER was working with Students Against Violating the Earth (SAVE) representatives regarding this endeavor. POWER representatives stated that they had been working with SAVE and that they recently had a SKYPE session with them. It was stated that POWER was comprised of the 16 Freshman at Pottsgrove High School in addition to 30 or more high school members. They added that the Pottsgrove High School faculty was supportive of POWER. It was noted that the Hilsee home located on this site needed repair and that the existing pool should be cleaned out and needed professional attention.

3. Old Business

A. Discussion and possible action regarding the request to utilize Hoffman Field for soccer and baseball

Representatives of the Pottsgrove Little League, Mr. Mitchell, and the Pottsgrove Soccer Club, Mr. Vaughn, discussed the proposal for both entities to utilize Hoffman Field. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Pottsgrove Little League was in agreement with the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that the Township had provided to them. Mr. Vaughn asked what did maintenance consist of that was stated in the MOU. Mr. Miller stated that the

Township would be providing Hoffman Field, that the Township would move the logs to increase the parking lot area and the Township would provide gravel in the designated parking area. He added that the infield area for the baseball field would be maintained by the Pottsgrove Little League. Chairwoman Thompson stated that the Township would continue to mow the larger grass area at Hoffman Field. Ms. Ludy expressed hope that both the Pottsgrove Little League and Pottsgrove Soccer Club would each put in \$2,000 towards the development of the master plan for Hoffman Field by LTL Consultants. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Pottsgrove Little League hoped to be playing at the new proposed field next spring. It was noted that the Township would be providing the land but not the development of the land. Mr. Mitchell reiterated that it may take between two to four years to develop the property for baseball. Mr. Elliott stated that by signing the MOUs, the Pottsgrove Little League and the Pottsgrove Soccer Club would have first rights to the use of Hoffman Field although they would not have exclusive use of Hoffman Field. Mr. Elliott requested that the Pottsgrove Little League provide the Township with a proposed game schedule once the season begins. Although Pottsgrove Little League participants are from the Lower, Upper and West Pottsgrove areas, the Pottsgrove Soccer Club has participants from outside the area. Mr. Mitchell stated that he would meet with LTL Engineer Pete Eisenbrown to discuss this proposal. Mr. Miller suggested that the focus this summer by both the Pottsgrove Little League and Pottsgrove Soccer Club be on heavy earth moving. Mr. Elliott requested that both entities insure that they clean up the Field area after playing.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Ludy moved that the January 9, 2013 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Mr. Churach seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

5. Reports

- Mr. Churach reported that he had picked up two bags of trash along Snyder Road. He noted that there were beautiful stones placed on the property where the sheep farm used to be located.
- Mr. Churach requested that the storage trailer located on Pine Ford Road be removed from Township Open Space property. Mr. Layne stated that he would contact the Code Enforcement Officer regarding this matter.

6. New Business

- Mr. Miller stated that the Sussell Park entrance had been widened as requested.
- Mr. Miller distributed copies of proposed trail signs entitled Fox Hill Trail and one for Mocharniuk Trail Spur. After reviewing the signs, there was a consensus by the Board that the Fox Hill Trail sign should be utilized.

- Mr. Miller expressed his concern over the amount of potty waste at the parks.
- Following additional discussion on the proposed trail signs, Mr. Elliott moved that one Fox Hill sign should be placed on Mangers Mill Road and the other sign on N. Hanover Road.
- Mr. Miller stated that no hunting and no ATV signs had been placed in the Township.
- There was discussion regarding the merits of the Township participating in the proposal for the Township to help fund a joint recreation coordinator. Following a brief discussion on this matter, Mr. Churach made a motion that the Township participate in the agreement to fund a proposed joint recreation coordinator with the understanding that if the proposal as it is presently submitted is revised, and then the Township should reconsider participating in this program. Ms. Ludy seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of three yeas from Mr. Churach, Chairwoman Thompson and Ms. Ludy with Mr. Freed and Mr. Elliott voting nay.

7. Public Comment

Mr. Magyer, representing the Patriots Travel Team (baseball), requested permission to use Kulp Field in coordination with the Pottsgrove Little League. His Team is comprised of 10 year olds. Following a brief discussion, the Board by consensus granted the Patriots Travel Team the right to utilize Kulp Field in coordination with the Pottsgrove Little League.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Elliott moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:55 P.M. Mr. Churach seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Next meeting scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, May 8, 2013